

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 7-13 are pending and were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradley, Patent No. 5,849,201, in view of Brierly et al, Patent No. 5,640,703, Pierce et al, Patent No. 5,960,368 and DeGuitre et al, of record. The Applicants traverse as follows.

A key feature of the invention is the simultaneous presence of ozone and aqueous hydrogen peroxide in the radioactive liquid waste under treatment. Due to the effect of the ozone in the radioactive liquid waste in combination with the effect of hydrogen peroxide, the amount of OH radicals formed in the radioactive liquid waste is increased, thereby increasing the decomposition rate of organic substances (including surface active agents) obtained in the radioactive liquid waste. Therefore, the concentration of the organic substances is lowered over a shorter period of time by comparison with the prior art. Further, the occurrence of secondary waste is suppressed.

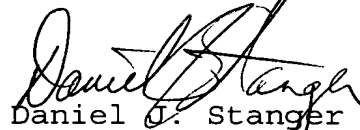
The primary reference to Bradley teaches subsequent steps of applying hydrogen peroxide and then ozone in the oxidation of aromatic hydrocarbons. However, Bradley does not teach that the ozone is charged to a radioactive liquid waste containing aqueous hydrogen peroxide.

In addition, none of Pierce, Brierly nor DeGuitre teaches the simultaneous presence of ozone and aqueous hydrogen peroxide. Pierce is seen to use nitric acid as an oxidizer. Brierly shows that either hydrogen peroxide or ozone can be used as an oxidizer, but not at the same time. DeGuitre is cited as teaching heating temperature control, and contains no applicable teaching of oxidizers corresponding to the oxidizers claimed.

Because none of the references teaches the simultaneous presence of ozone and aqueous hydrogen peroxide as claimed, the combination of the four references necessarily fails to lead the person of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 684-1120
Date: June 9, 2003